

SSRI Recertification/Follow-Up Clearance

(Updated 12/28/2022)

Policy Change in SSRI Program Cognitive Testing Requirements for Renewal of Special Issuance:

After careful study of data from 425 pilots in the SSRI Program, the FAA has determined that the neuropsychologist evaluation and routine CogScreen-AE administration are no longer necessary for **RENEWAL** of an SSRI special issuance, except when clinically indicated or specified on the Authorization/Special Consideration Letter. This policy change does NOT affect **initial** evaluations and the current AME checklists and Specifications for Neuropsychological Evaluations should still be used. This policy is effective immediately (12/15/2022).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Does the policy change apply to all classes of pilots and ATCS?

Yes.

2. Is a Neuropsychology follow up evaluation still required?

No. This policy change eliminates both the neuropsychologist evaluation and CogScreen for follow-up evaluations (unless the pilot/ATCS receives a specific request for follow-up).

3. My pilot/ATCS is currently on an Authorization for the SSRI program. Their current Authorization letter states they need CogScreen. Can I issue without a follow-up CogScreen and Neuropsychology evaluation based on the 12/15/2022 policy change?

Yes. If all other items of the HIMS AME Checklist – SSRI Recertification/Follow-Up Clearance are in the clear column and they are otherwise qualified - issue with a 6-month time limitation. Submit all information to the FAA for review.

4. What will happen when the case is reviewed at the FAA?

- All SSRI cases are reviewed by a FAA psychiatrist.
- As each case is reviewed, a new Authorization letter may be generated. In most cases, the requirement for a follow-up CogScreen will be removed.
- For a small number of cases, a follow up CogScreen may be required. This information will be on the Authorization Letter.

5. If my pilot/ATCS receives a letter asking for a new CogScreen, can they fly in the meantime?

Yes, if otherwise qualified. There will be some overlap in letters that were sent out prior to 12/15/2022 which asked for a follow-up CogScreen. If the pilot/ATCS has already completed the CogScreen from the previous letter, the AME should review and send it to the FAA.

If the pilot/ATCS has provided all items to the HIMS AME **except the CogScreen and Neuropsychology evaluation** (for follow-up SSRI Authorization), the AME can issue if all

items are in the clear column of the [HIMS AME Checklist – SSRI Recertification/ Follow-Up Clearance](#).

6. Is there a possibility that the aviator will be grounded due to the results of the CogScreen results?

If the results were severe and were thought to identify significant cognitive deficits, the Special Issuance would be temporarily withdrawn while further evaluation is completed.

7. Does the policy change apply to pilots/ATCS who are not yet on an Authorization for SSRI?

Not at this time. There is no change to the current INITIAL Authorization requirements.